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MAY 09 2007

REMARKS

Claims 269 - 300 are pending in the parent application. Claims 269 - 271, 276, 278 - 280, 285, 287 - 290, 295, and 297 - 299 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Eckmiller. Claims 272 - 275, 277, 281 - 284, 286, 291 - 294, 296 and 300 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious in view of Eckmiller and Michelson. The independent claims are amended to include the limitation "means for altering parameters for stimulating visual neurons based on said operational data" such means is not disclosed in Eckmiller or Michelson, either individually or in combination.

While Eckmiller describes a visual prosthesis with "bidirectional" data, Eckmiller does not describe in detail the data returned or how it is used. The only specific statement of what is transmitted, column 7, line 23 - 32, is "recorded impulses and other physical or chemical signals". Eckmiller describes various parameters as beneficial. However, Eckmiller does not state that they are transmitted from the implant to the external unit. Some of the parameters pointed to by the Examiner (e.g. eye tracking head tracking, and "functional tuning as individually required, various visual recognition, tracking and location identification tasks") could not be reasonably ascertained by the implanted unit. Applicant believes column 5, lines 60 - 64 describes data sent into the body, not out of the body. Column 3, line 49 - 50 merely states that the device is bi-directional. Column 4, lines 18 - 26 describes location of the external unit. The claimed parameters or their use is not disclosed in Eckmiller.

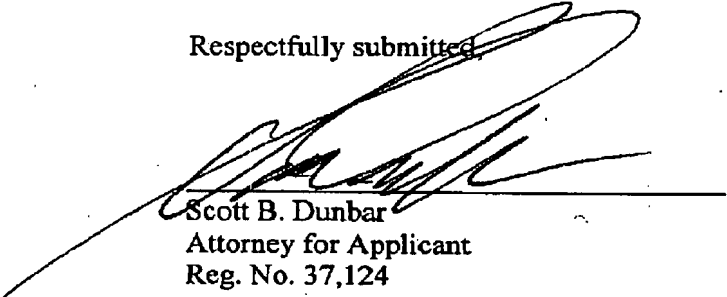
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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, and the Examiner believe that a teleconference may be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (818) 833-5055 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

May 9, 2007



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